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# Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-07 IO-14 SS-15 NSC-05 AGRE-00
SCS-05 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 HEW-06 INR-07
NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 DHA-02 SCA-01 USIA-15 EB-08
COME-00 DOTE-00 /103 W
----------041523 021043Z /12
P R 020925Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4483
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY MANILA
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SWEL, TW
SUBJECT: TYPHOON VERA HITS NORTHERN TAIWAN

REF : (A) TAIPEI 4557, (B) TAIPEI 4608

FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY'S CURRENT ASSESSMENT OF DAMAGES CAUSED
BY TYPHOON VERA IN NORTHERN TAIWAN.

1. THIRTY-EIGHT DEATHS AND 175 INJURIES HAVE BEEN ATTRIBUTED
TO VERA, MOST IN THE TAIPEI AREA AND IN KEELUNG. NO
U.. CITIZEN CASUALTIES HAVE BEEN REPORTED ADDITIONAL TO
THAT MENTIONED REF (B).

2. POWER GENERATION FACILITIES AND TRANSMISSION LINES:
TAIWAN POWER COMPANY (TAIPOWER) OFFICIALS HAVE VERIFIED
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THAT MAJOR TRANSMISSION LINES FROM ALL LARGE GENERATING
STATIONS AT THE NORTHERN TIP OF TAIWAN WERE BROKEN, AND
THAT THERE APPARENTLY WAS MINOR DAMAGE TO GENERATING
EQUIPMENT AS WELL. POWER WAS RESTORED YESTERDAY TO
PORTIONS OF TAIPEI, AND IS EXPECTED TO BE SUPPLIED, WITH
MINOR EXCEPTIONS, TO THE REST OF THE CAPITAL TODAY OR
TOMORROW, AS WELL AS TO TAOYUAN, ILAN, AND KEELUNG.

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HOWEVER, RESTRICTIONS ON USE, BEGUN IN WAKE OF TYPHOON
THELMA, WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE UNTIL AT LEAST AUGUST 10.
TALIN POWER TRANSMISSION SYSTEM IN SOUTHERN TAIWAN, WHICH
PREVIOUSLY SUPPLIED ONE MILLION KW TO THE NORTH, HAS NOT YET
FULLY RECOVERED FROM THE EFFECTS OF THELMA AND IS HARD-PUT
TO SUPPLY ITS OWN AREA, LET ALONE EXPORT POWER TO TAIPEI.
AN EMERGENCY SUPPLY OF 1.1 MILLION KW HAS BEEN SHUNTED
NORTH FROM CENTRAL TAIWAN, BUT EVEN THIS IS INSUFFICIENT
TO ALLOW THE NORMAL TAIPEI AREA DEMAND OF 3.4 MILLION KW
TO BE MET.

3. HARBORS AND PORT INSTALLATIONS:

A) KEELUNG: THREE OUT OF FOUR LARGE DOCKSIDE CONTAINER
CRANES REPORTED DESTROYED OR BADLY DAMAGED. CONSEQUENCES
OF LOSS ARE MORE SERIOUS THAN WOULD NORMALLY BE CASE BECAUSE
YPHON THELMA RECENTLY DESTROYED ALL EIGHT SUCH FACILITIES
AT KAOHSIUNG. THUS, THERE IS ONLY ONE OPERATING DOCKSIDE
CONTAINER CRANE ON ENTIRE ISLAND AT PRESENT. USE OF
EXISTING FLOATING CRANES AND SMALLER, SHORE-BASED MOBILE
CRANES, PLUS RENTING OF ADDITIONAL CRANES FROM SEALAND AND
FROM A JAPANESE FIRM, SPEEDUP IN TIMETABLE FOR CONSTRUCTION
OF NEW FACILITIES, GREATER USE OF BREAK-BULK PROCEDURES,
AND RESCHEDULING OF SHIP CALLS BY CARRIERS WILL PROBABLY
TO CONSIDERABLE EXTENT RENDER LOSS OF MAIN DOCKSIDE
FACILITIES MORE OF A TEMPORARY AND COSTLY INCONVENIENCE
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THAN A MAJOR DISASTER WITH LONG-RANGE EFFECTS ON ECONOMY.
HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF HIGH PERCENTAGE OF TRAFFIC WHICH
IS CONTAINERIZED AND THE LIMITED NUMBER OF CONTAINER
VESSELS WITH ON-BOARD CARGO-HANDLING FACILITIES, IT IS
UNLIKELY THAT A NORMAL LEVEL OF OPERATIONS CAN BE
RESTORED WITHOUT MAJOR INCONVENIENCE TO CARRIERS,
RESULTING IN INCREASED COSTS OF SHIPPING GOODS TO AND
FROM TAIWAN. COMPLETE ESTIMATES ON DOCKSIDE FACILITY
REPAIR TIME REPUIRED AT KEELUNG ARE NOT YET AVAILABLE.
HOWEVER, PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIONS INDICATE THAT
PROBABLY THREE TO SIX MONTHS WILL BE REQUIRED TO RESTORE
OR REPLACE LARGE CRANES. KEELUNG HARBOR AUTHORITIES
INSIST, NEVERTHELESS, THAT THEY WILL BE ABLE TO HANDLE
ALL THE TRAFFIC THEY WOULD NORMALLY BE CALLED ON TO
HANDLE. WHAT THEY WILL NOT NOW BE ABLE TO DO, IT APPEARS,
IS TAKE OVER FOR KAOHSIUNG WHILE THE MUCH MORE EXTENSIVE
DAMAGE TO THAT PORT IS BEING REPAIRED. EARLY OFFICIAL
REPORTS FROMKEELUNG ALSO CONFIRM THAT FOUR CARGO
CARRIERS WERE SET ADRIFT IN THE STORM, BUT THAT NO
VESSLES WERE SUNK IN THE HARBOR. ADVANCE WARNING OF
THE APPROACH OF VERA APPARENTLY ALLOWED MOST VESSELS
AT KEELUNG TO PUT TO SEA IN TIME TO AVOID A CATASTROPHE

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OF THE DIMENSIONS WHICH STRUCK KAOHSIUNG.

B) TAICHUNG: NO DAMAGE TO PORT FACILITIES.

C) SUAO, HUALIEN: NO SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE TO FACILITIES.

4. TELECOMMUNICATIONS:

LONG DISTANCE AND INTERNATIONAL CIRCUITS ARE REPORTED TO BE FULLY OPERATIVE, WITH VIRTUALLY NO DAMAGE TO MAJOR FACILITIES ABOUT 100,000 LOCAL TELEPHONES ARE TEMPORARILY OUT OF ORDER, MOSTLY IN TAIPEI, KEELUNG, AND TAOYUAN.

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5. RAILROADS:

TAIWAN RAILWAY ADMINISTRATION REPORTS NO SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE TO EITHER ELECTRIFICATION PROJECT ON NORTH-SOUTH TRUNK LINE OR TO SUAO-HUALIEN PROJECT. WITH MINOR EXCEPTIONS, BASIC RAIL SERVICE HAS BEEN RESTORED AND DAMAGE TO FACILITIES IS REPORTED NEGLIGIBLE, THOUGH SOME CONFUSION IN SCHEDULING CONTINUES.

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AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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6. ROADS:

BOTH CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN EAST-WEST HIGHWAYS WERE DAMAGED BY RAINS ACCOMPANYING VERA, AND ARE BLOCKED. EXTENT OF DAMAGE IS NOT YET KNOWN BECAUSE OF INACCESS-ABILITY OF LARGE AREAS CUT OFF BY SLIDES. THE SUAO-HUALIEN AND TAIPEI-ILAN HIGHWAYS WERE DAMAGED, BUT THE FLOW OF TRAFFIC HAS RESUMED ON BOTH.

7. CIVIL AVIATION:

CHINESE CIVIL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION REPORTS NO SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE TO MAJOR FACILITIES AND NO AIRCRAFT LOSSES.

8. PETROLEUM AND PETROCHEMICALS:

NO NEW DAMAGE OCCURRED TO ANY FACILITIES, THOUGH THE UNCLASSIFIED

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TAOYUAN REFINERY CEASED OPERATIONS FOR 14 HOURS OWING TO POWER FAILURE. THE TA LIN COMPLEX AT KAOHSIUNG IS STILL CLOSED DOWN OWING TO COLLAPSE OF ONE U.S.-DESIGNED COOLING TOWER AND DAMAGE TO THE OTHER DURING TYPHOON THELMA. OWING TO RESERVE STORAGE CAPACITY AND SITUATION IN PETROCHEMICAL MARKETS, NO MAJOR LONG-RANGE IMPACT ON ECONOMY IS EXPECTED.

9. OTHER INDUSTRIES AND SHOPS:

MINOR DAMAGE REPORTED TO GOVERNMENT-OPERATED FACTORIES. DAMAGES TO FACTORIES IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR ARE NOW BEING INVESTIGATED BY THE GROC'S INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BUREAU.

10. HOMES:

OFFICIALS REPORT ABOUT 270 HOUSES COLLAPSED OR BADLY DAMAGED, MOSTLY IN TAIPEI AREA AND IN KEELUNG.

11. CROPS:

NO DAMAGE TO GROWING RICE, BUT MINOR DAMAGE INFLICTED ON RICE STORED INWAREHOUSES. FIELDS NEAR ILAN, PREVIOUSLY DROUGHT-STRICKEN, BENEFITTED FROM THE RAINS BROUGHT BY THE TYPHOON. OTHER CROPS: EXTENT OF DAMAGES

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NOT YET KNOWN.

12. FISHING AND FISHERIES:

EXTENT OF DAMAGE NOT YET KNOWN, BUT BELIEVED MINOR.
PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES OF DAMAGE FROM PREVIOUS TYPHOON,
(THELMA) MOSTLY TO CULTURE FISHERY: NEARLY US$10,000,000.
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# Message Attributes

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**Review Release Date:** n/a
**Review Release Event:** n/a
**Review Transfer Date:**
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**Type:** TE
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**Review Markings:**
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